

## Message Text

SECRET

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22/12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 H-01 L-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00

OMB-01 ACDA-10 IO-03 /054 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9015

INFO SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SEOUL 6585

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: FORNMIN OUTLINES ROK PUBLIC STANCE ON UNC CALL FOR  
MAC MEETING

### SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT IS NOT REVERSE OF OUR  
REACTION TO KIM IL SUNG MESSAGE. HE ALSO REQUESTS CLOSE  
CONTINUING CONSULTATION ON OUR ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS NORTH  
KOREA. END SUMMARY.

1. FORNMIN PARK TONG-JIN CALLED ME IN FIRST THING MORNING  
AUGUST 24 TO DISCUSS ROK REACTION TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S  
AUGUST 23 STATEMENT ON KIM IL SUNG MESSAGE. FORNMIN CAME  
DIRECTLY TO THE POINT OF HIS CONCERN WHICH WAS NOT THE  
SUBSTANCE OF SPOKESMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT BUT THE NEED FOR ROKG  
TO WORK OUT COMPLIMENTARY GUIDANCE FOR ROK PRESS, PARTICULARLY  
WITH RESPECT PRIOR CONSULTATION.

2. AFTER NOTING THAT SEOUL'S AUGUST 24 MORNING PAPERS HAD  
ALREADY TAKEN LINE THAT SPOKESMAN FUNSETH'S STATEMENT  
REPRESENTED REVERSAL U.S. REACTION TO KIM IL SUNG MESSAGE, PARK  
SAID HE WISHED TO CORRECT THIS MISLEADING IMPRESSION. HOWEVER, FIRST

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QUESTION PRESS WOULD ASK WOULD BE WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN

ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH U.S. ON SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT. AFTER FIRST SUGGESTING THAT HE TELL PRESS DIRECTLY THAT ROKS HAD HAD ADVANCE NOTICE, WE AGREED IT WOULD BE MORE ADVISABLE TO TAKE LINE THAT TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE AND CONTINUING CONSULTATION THROUGHOUT CURRENT SITUATION, WITHOUT DISCUSSING DETAILS OF SUCH CONSULTATION INCLUDING AS THEY RELATE TO AUGUST 23 STATEMENT.

3. PARK ALSO PLANS TO NOTE THAT DEPARTMENT'S INITIAL COMMENTS WERE MADE ON A SUNDAY TO JOURNALISTS WHO PRESSED FOR COMMENT, THAT KIM IL SUNG'S MESSAGE HAD BEEN UNDER CLOSE STUDY BY TWO GOVERNMENTS SINCE THEN, AND THAT SPOKESMAN'S FORMAL AUGUST 23 STATEMENT HAD BEEN MADE TO CLARIFY EARLIER STATEMENT, ALONG LINES OF FUNSETH EXPLANATION WHICH WE GAVE HIM. (COMMENT: WE SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE FONMIN FULL TEXT OF EXCERPTS FROM STATE DEPT BRIEFING AFTER RECEIPT IN WIRELESS FILE.) IF QUESTIONED, PARK PLANS TO SAY THAT AUGUST 22 AND 23 STATEMENTS ARE NOT INCONSISTENT AND TO STICK TO POINT THAT AUGUST 23 STATEMENT IS CAREFULLY PHRASED, OFFICIAL POSITION. HE WILL DECLINE TO GO BEYOND THIS INTO DETAILS OF ROKG/USG CONSULTATION.

4. FORNMIN THEN NOTED ONE NEW ELEMENT IN DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S AUGUST 23 STATEMENT: THAT WE CONSIDER KIM IL SUNG'S MESSAGE "POSITIVE STEP." IN ANSWER TO ANTICIPATED PRESS QUESTION ON THIS, PARK AGREED AT MY INSISTENCE NOT TO ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN MEANING OF THIS PHRASE BEYOND THAT GIVEN BY STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN, BUT RATHER TO DEFLECT QUESTION WITH REITERATION SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT THAT WE ARE CALLING FOR MAC MEETING "TO INSIST UPON NORTH KOREAN ASSURANCES RESPECTING SAFETY OUR PERSONNEL."

5. AT SEVERAL POINTS IN CONVERSATION, PARK UNDERLINED KEY IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH ROKS THROUGHOUT SITUATION. DURING CONVERSATION, HE RECEIVED CALL FROM BLUE HOUSE WHICH HE SUBSEQUENTLY EXPLAINED, WAS DIRECTIVE FROM PRESIDENT PARK TO UNDERLINE THIS VERY POINT TO ME. IT IS VITAL, SAID FORNMIN, THAT KOREAN PUBLIC NOT GET IMPRESSION THERE IS LACK OF CONSULTATION.

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6. ASIDE FROM COMMENTS TO HELP PARK DEVELOP ABOVE PRESS LINE, I NOTED IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION THAT WHEN SPOKESMAN HAD SAID, "WE ARE CALLING FOR" MAC MEETING TO INSIST ON NORTH KOREAN ASSURANCES RESPECTING "OUR PERSONNEL IN THE DMZ", WORD "WE" REFERRED TO UN COMMANDER AND WORD "OUR" TO ALL UN FORCES IN THE DMZ.

7. BEARING IN MIND THE LARGE HEAD OF ANTI-NORTH KOREAN

STEAM ROKS HAVE BEEN BUILDING UP ON THIS ISSUE, INCLUDING PRESSURE FOR FURTHER "RETALIATORY ACTION", I ALSO MADE POINT AT CLOSE OF CONVERSATION THAT WE HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED VERY POSITIVE RESULTS FROM OUR ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO JSA MURDERS. I UNDERLINED TO PARK THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIFIED REACTION IN THE UNITED STATES TO BOTH THE INCIDENT AND TO THE ACTIONS WE HAVE TAKEN IN RESPONSE, INCLUDING THE APPROPRIATENESS OF OUR CURRENT ACTION IN THIS CONTEXT.

8. IN SUBSEQUENT CALL TO ME, FOREIGN MINISTER, AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK, MADE THREE POINTS REINFORCING ABOVE. FIRST, HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF U.S. SPOKESMAN TAKING SIMILAR POSITION TO THAT SET FORTH IN PARA 2 ABOVE, IF ASKED WHETHER WE HAD CONSULTED WITH ROKS OR NOTIFIED THEM IN ADVANCE ABOUT AUGUST 23 STATEMENT. HE SAID THAT, IF WE SAID THAT WE HAD NOT CONSULTED OR INFORMED THEM IN ADVANCE, THERE COULD BE "UGLY SITUATION" IN KOREA AS RESULT PUBLIC REACTION. SECONDLY, HE CONFIRMED WITH PRESIDENT PARK THAT ROK WILL SUPPORT U.S. AUGUST 23 STATEMENT. FINALLY, HE EMPHASIZED PRESIDENT PARK'S PERSONAL DESIRE THAT THERE BE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE BILATERAL COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION. HE WAS MORE EXPLICIT IN EXPRESSING SOME UNHAPPINESS WITH FAILURE TO NOTIFY ROKG IN ADVANCE OF AUGUST 23 STATEMENT. I POINTED OUT IN RESPONSE THAT AUGUST 23 STATEMENT DOES IN FACT REFLECT OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS, INCLUDING MINE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON AUGUST 22.

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